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P 291748Z MAY 09  
FM USEU BRUSSELS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY  
RUZBCAA/NAVCENT INTEL MANAMA BA PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RULSJGA/COMDT COGARD WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CNO WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
RUEHTH/USDAO ATHENS GR PRIORITY  
RUEHRL/USDAO BERLIN GE PRIORITY  
RUEHSW/USDAO BERN SZ MAY BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY  
RUEHCP/USDAO COPENHAGEN DA PRIORITY  
RUEHLI/USDAO LISBON PO PRIORITY  
RUEHLO/USDAO LONDON UK PRIORITY  
RUEHMD/USDAO MADRID SP PRIORITY  
RUEHNC/USDAO NICOSIA PRIORITY  
RUEHNY/USDAO OSLO NO PRIORITY  
RUEHOT/USDAO OTTAWA CA PRIORITY  
RUEHFR/USDAO PARIS FR PRIORITY  
RUEHPG/USDAO PRAGUE EZ PRIORITY  
RUEHRO/USDAO ROME IT PRIORITY  
RUEHSM/USDAO STOCKHOLM SW PRIORITY  
RUEHTC/USDAO THE HAGUE NL PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USDELMC BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USEU BRUSSELS 000751

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

PASS TO NAVCENT POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/30/2019  
TAGS:MOPS, MARR, PREL, EWWT, XW, XF, EUN  
SUBJECT: EU MEMBERS WELCOME NATO COUNTER-PIRACY MISSION,  
WITH U.S. FORCE COMMITMENT

REF: USNATO 202

Classified By: Pol M-C Christopher Davis for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C//NF) Summary: Over the past few weeks, several EU-based diplomats and military officers from key Allies as well as EU officials have told USEU that they see room for both NATO and the EU to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. They add, however, that the NATO counter-piracy force, to add value and not divide the "single pool of forces," should come from states not participating in the EU naval operation, End Summary.

12. (C//NF) On May 27 and 28, including during a meeting with USEU and the NAVCENT PolAd on May 28, two representatives of the German EU military delegation argued that NATO should bring "added value" to international counter-piracy efforts. Before the meeting, German navy Captain Hans-Joerg Detlefsen told PolOff that European Allies do not want to see NATO be unable to launch an operation, but noted that the U.S. has not yet suggested that it would itself make a strong force commitment to a NATO mission. In separate conversations on May 27 and 28, both Detlefsen and the German delegation's Lt. Col. Michael Schlechtweg told USEU that they believed a NATO operation should not divide

Europe's "single pool of forces" by competing for naval contributions.

¶3. (C//NF) Over the past two weeks, key Allied country and EU officials have told USEU that the EU perceives space for both NATO and the EU to engage in counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia, and that they expect that the U.S. will be a major contributor to any NATO operation. The Pol-Mil Counselor at the French mission has underlined to different USEU officers on several separate occasions that France welcome a NATO counter-piracy contribution provided it brings "additional capabilities" to bear. Those additional capabilities, he said, should come from non-EU members such as the United States, Canada, and Turkey, and Denmark, an EU Member State that does not participate in EU military operations.

¶4. (C//NF) At the same time, our contacts say NATO should not look to EU Member States to commit forces to a NATO counter-piracy operation, since the EU already has an ongoing operation with the necessary command and legal arrangements. The head of military operations and exercises in the EU Council Secretariat has repeatedly told USEU that a NATO operation makes sense if it brings "new capabilities, not just a new organization's flag" to the counter-piracy fight. On May 20, the Swedish Pol-Mil Counselor told PolOff that Sweden hopes to avoid competition over forces, information

sharing, or any other issues. (Note: Sweden will take over the EU Presidency in July. End Note.)

¶5. (C//NF) Comment: While constraints on forces and budgets are factors in mounting any counter-piracy operation, representatives of some EU Member States, at least, are signaling their commitment to keeping Operation ATALANTA afloat. End Comment.

MURRAY